

Appl. No.: 09/825,482

Patent

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claim 74 was found allowable and claims 47, 57, 58 and 67-69 were found allowable but were objected to as dependent on a rejected base claim. Claims 38-45, 49-56, 59-65, and 71-73 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Steinman and Orum in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,863,717 ("Lancaster"). Claims 46, 48, 66 and 70 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Steinman and Orum in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,045,993 ("Mahony").

In response to the Office Action, claims 38-49 have been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 75-96 have been added. Support for the new claims may be found throughout the application as filed. Claim 75 finds support, for example, in Example 4 as filed. Claims 76 and 77 find support, for example, in paragraphs 9, 10, 33 and 34 as filed (as numbered in the published application). Claim 78 finds support, for example, in paragraphs 30 and 39 as filed (as numbered in the published application). Claims 79-96 find support at least in the claims as filed. Claim 50 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claims 57 and 58. The dependent claims have been amended to be dependent on claims 50 and 74, as appropriate. Claim 66 has also been amended to recite proper Markush language. Claim 67 has been amended to incorporate the probes disclosed in Examples 1 and 4. No new matter is added.

Incorporation of allowable claims 57 and 58 into claim 50 and amendment of the dependent claims to depend on claim 50 or allowable claim 74 renders all the claims allowable. Although Applicants traverse the rejections set forth in the prosecution history for at least the reasons set forth in prior responses, these amendments are being made to expedite allowance at this stage of prosecution.

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CONCLUSION

Allowance of the claims is respectfully requested. The Examiner may call the Assignee's attorney at (650) 849-4908 to further advance prosecution of this case to issuance.

If the Commissioner determines that additional fees are due or that an excess fee has been paid, the Patent Office is authorized to debit or credit (respectively) Deposit Account No. 50-2518, reference no. 7030080000.

Respectfully submitted,



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